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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Propel Schools Foundation Announces 2016-17 Innovation Grants**

**Pittsburgh, Dec. 13, 2016** – Propel Schools Foundation awarded \$40,000 in Innovation Grants, an annual initiative that provides funding for creative programming beyond daily curriculum. These innovative projects improve, advance or enrich student learning and reflect Propel’s quest for excellence. The impact of these projects can continue long after the grant year has closed. The 2016-17 grants will fund projects at Propel Schools ranging from community gardens and mindfulness meditation to an exploration of global cuisine.

“Innovation Grants provide unique opportunities for teachers to go beyond the classroom and engage our students in meaningful ways,” said Brandon Keat, a teacher at Propel Andrew St. High School who received a grant for his Braddock Bakers project. “It gives us the chance to creatively address the real needs we see in ways that would otherwise not be possible while having fun along the way.”

Propel Andrew Street High School (ASHS) received grants for the following projects:

- **Braddock Bakers: Bringing It All Back Home** develops students into self-sufficient bakers, building and using facilities at the “Homestead Homestead” to gain real world, hands-one experience and connect with the community.
- **Outdoor Ceramic Classroom** partners students with community ceramic organizations to experience working with various clay bodies and firing techniques by building and firing clay pieces in an outside ceramic classroom constructed by the students themselves.

Propel Braddock Hills High School (BHHS) received grants for the following projects:

- **Building Life Skills** is a broad and comprehensive project enabling students to function effectively and successfully balance their roles as consumers, homemakers, parents, employees and employers.
  - **Global Schools Scholarship** awards a \$1,000 scholarship to five Global Scholar students for BHHS’ July 2018 trip to Europe.
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- **What's Good at BHHS Classroom Studio and Standing Editing Bay** will provide students with tools to continue to produce an original weekly broadcast highlighting student voices and activities at BHHS.

Propel Homestead received grants for the following projects:

- **Architect Barbie** increases the awareness of the field of architecture among young women.
- **Mindful Meditation** introduces meditation and mindfulness techniques to students in order to nurture their social and emotional learning.

Propel Montour received grants for the following projects:

- **School Library** is a student-led initiative aiming to enhance the school's library resources.
- **Taste the World** broadens students' global perspective by exploring native snack cuisine from countries around the world and appropriately sharing those experiences with the school community to create and inspire a culture of dignity that has no borders.

Propel Northside received a grant for this project:

- **The Sturdy Roots Project** invites the parents of kindergarten students into the classroom at regular intervals to celebrate student learning, build a strong home-to-school connection and to receive materials targeted at ensuring their child's academic success.

The following districtwide project received a grant:

- **Exploring the World Through Google Expeditions** allows K-12 students in all Propel schools to enjoy hundreds of field trips to extend classroom learning beyond school walls.

### **About Propel Schools**

*Propel Schools, based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to catalyze the transformation of public education so that all children have access to high performing public schools. Propel has become one of the largest, fastest-expanding sets of charter schools in the state, with high levels of student achievement among Pennsylvania public school districts supporting undeserved communities. Propel is serving 3,700 students this year at 11 Allegheny County locations. Visit [www.propelschools.org](http://www.propelschools.org) to learn more.*

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